AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 21-32 are pending. Claims 22-24 are being amended. After the amendments, claims 21-32 will be pending.

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-20. (Canceled)

21. (Previously presented) An isolated polypeptide selected from the group consisting of:

(a) a polypeptide encoded by a nucleic acid molecule having SEQ ID NO: 3; and

(b) a polypeptide encoded by a nucleic acid molecule which hybridizes to the complement of the polynucleotide having SEQ ID NO: 3 under conditions of about 100 mM salt and 60°C, wherein said polypeptide is capable of binding an IL-B50 receptor.

22. (Currently amended) A purified ~~IL-B50~~ polypeptide wherein the polypeptide comprises SEQ ID NO: 4, or a fragment thereof, capable of binding IL-B50 receptors.

23. (Currently amended) A purified ~~IL-B50~~ polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence that is at least about 80% identical to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2, or a fragment thereof, wherein the polypeptide is capable of binding IL-B50 receptors.

24. (Currently amended) A purified ~~human IL-B50~~ polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence that is at least 80% identical to amino acids 1 through 131 of SEQ ID NO: 4, or a fragment thereof, wherein the polypeptide is capable of binding an IL-B50 receptor.

25. (Previously presented) A composition comprising the polypeptide of claim 22, 23, or 24, and a physiologically acceptable diluent or carrier.

26. (Previously presented) A method of stimulating lymphoid proliferation, comprising incubating lymphoid cells with the polypeptide of claim 22, 23, or 24.

27. (Previously presented) The method of claim 26, further comprising incubating the lymphoid cells with IL-7.

28. (Previously presented) A method of stimulating lymphopoietic development comprising incubating progenitor cells with the polypeptide of claim 22, 23, or 24.

29. (Previously presented) The method of claim 28, wherein the progenitor cells are bone marrow-derived stem cells.

30. (Previously presented) The method of claim 29, further comprising incubating the bone marrow-derived stem cells with IL-7.

31. (Previously presented) The polypeptide of claim 22 or 23, wherein the polypeptide is a fusion protein.

32. (Previously presented) The polypeptide of claim 31 wherein the fusion protein comprises an Fc domain.